

May 31, 1967

Dear Gene:

Thank you for your good letter of the 27th! I was waiting on your reply, even tho' I felt the need of writing you again about recent happenings.

I had a letter from Virgil yesterday which told me he had been in touch with you, and your advice about a lawyer. I am glad for your guidance here for I don't know how to even begin when I get home and was counting on you and Jesse to at least start me down the right street. Jesse also is searching for a lawyer, and told me he had a friend who is a psychiatrist whose son is a lawyer. I have not heard any more from Jesse in the past 10 days. Virgil wrote of his plan to see Tillinghast & threaten to publicise all of this. I was quite disturbed and answered at once that I appreciated all his time & effort & thought but I hoped he would not do such a thing as it could destroy me, and certainly, as you say, I want no part of such a plan. I am not about to turn from the faith I have in God and Christ to the dirtiest form of abuse I know. God has not and will not cast me aside, and whatever the Church finally does I must keep within that framework or go down to a defeat I could not hope to rise from. Perhaps Tillinghast will know I am not instigating or participating in such a plan, but Virgil goes to the West Coast tomorrow and he & Corrence planned to see Dr. T. before that if they could get an appointment. Is it too much to ask you to

Telephone Corrence and insist they will do me more harm than good this way?

I am definitely returning on June 8, & I have stayed here simply to be out of Jim's way for the final Sunday he preaches & to save any emotional problem from him, knowing he will have quite enough as it is. I am spending almost all my time in my hotel room except for meals & an evening concert, and it is not good, not good, but I am so tired mentally and even physically from battling this thing from 3000 miles away, that my interest in anything at all has evaporated. Strangely, I find I can concentrate easily on religious stuff & mysteries, but have a constant struggle to concentrate on even the newspaper & Time. Even the concerts pass over me without being heard, but I at least am out of my room for 2-3 hours. I certainly am not what I would call friendless, but when I see the poor derelicts, men and women, walking along alone, useless, forgotten, unwanted, I realize how terrible this emptiness is and my heart aches for the little we do for the truly lonely ones.

Jim telephoned Dr. Sargent on the 22nd and according to Sargent was "shaken" by the last letters of Loubach and of Swann. Sargent was very hesitant about committing himself but he felt Jim was trying to say

to me "fight". I felt encouraged and really hopeful after seeing Dr. Sargant on the 24th and getting this report. Yesterday Jim wrote me a long letter (for him) saying he felt it was hopeless for me to contemplate returning to Riverside, so I went down again. I see Sargant this afternoon, & I have now made up my mind once and for all to come home and begin the separation legally, no matter what Sargant says. I am sure he misread Jim's telephone conversation and was really encouraged himself, but we 3 men over here simply can not take any more. This hot and cold business has exhausted all my reserves of energy, and the 2 doctors are at their wits end, never knowing what to believe. I am sure, if necessary, that Dr. Sargant & Dr. Mason will supply sufficient reports, summaries, or whatever is needed to my lawyer. I can only hope & pray that what you say about my not having failed the Church will be the opinion held & fostered by Fisher & Williamson, & Jim, and that a sufficient pension is planned to relieve me of the fear of being unable to cope with life in general. You know, I have been so knocked about in every area of my mind and personality by these 7 months, that I wonder whether I am adequate to function in any capacity, and I fear the next several months will test me to the very depths. So far, almost constant prayer and my determination to hang on to my belief in God have kept me steady.

toes of kindness & union for him. I shall soon have a
usual & new sample for quilt but, please
I will begin a search for a used piano for my
apartment and try to get a teaching schedule set up.
It will take all my courage to move my stuff out of
the church studio, but I know I have to do it, so will
begin a little probably immediately. I have written to 10
Teacher's Agencies, plus some schools near N.Y., Albany,
Westminster Choir, Herb. Beattie at Hofstra, & Peabody in
Balto. Someone, somewhere will have a part-time opening
for voice. As to a church, I doubt very much if I have
the desire to pursue any further work in "organised re-
ligion". I can be a Christian through and in my work
as a teacher, and perhaps find a church "home" somehow,
as you finally chose the Community Church atmosphere.
I plan on going to Md. to see my brother, who has agreed
to help me with my care of our aunt, who I have taken
care of for over 15 years, but I am staying in N.Y. until
the 15th and hope you & I can meet. Jim Smith, who
used to sing in the choir, is moving to Rockport, Mass. &
wants me to see his Sherman Sq. apartment ^(on June 12) before he
gives it up, as I am not sure I will be allowed to teach
where I am, though Frances Ballard teaches piano there.
I have asked Jesse to see me on the 8th, when I get
to the apartment from the Airport, as I will need his
strength & counsel. Of course, my good Anna Brandt is
standing by, and my mind even contemplates what
you have suggested, though the doctors say it would be

a grave mistake. I think my mind is searching for rest
and safety, and accordingly my selfishness sees a haven
in marriage, but it might lead to even greater trouble.
Anyway, time will eventually provide all the answers,
and I must work at being patient and silent, and
keep my trust strong and clear.

I will try phoning you on the 14th at your
apartment, or maybe you will drop me a line
saying when you will be available to meet between
the 14 and 16.

Love to both

Dick